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*Requested by Clifton*  
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence

21 August 1961

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**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON CUBAN CHARGE THAT US PLOTTED TO ASSASSINATE  
RAUL CASTRO**

1. On 12 August, Cuban radios carried an announcement by the Ministry of Interior that 159 Cuban "counterrevolutionaries" had been arrested and implicated in a plot to assassinate Raul Castro and to "simulate an aggression" against the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay. Cuban officials have long accused the US of plotting to stage an attack on the Base as justification for US military intervention in Cuba. The Ministry of Interior announcement, which contained considerable detail allegedly from confessions of those arrested, accused CIA and US Naval officers at the Base of being implicated in the plot. The plot was said to have been planned for 26 July and to have been frustrated after loyal militiamen had, several days previously, discovered and seized a quantity of weapons which the conspirators allegedly obtained from the Naval Base.

2. Che Guevara referred to the alleged plot during his 8 August address at the IA-ECOSOC Conference in Uruguay. The Cuban allegations may well be aired again when Cuba brings its charges of "US aggressive intentions" before the 16th session of the UN General Assembly. Castro has repeatedly emphasized

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that the territory of the US Naval Base will be "recovered" by Cuba through "legal channels," thus implying that the regime will seek UN or World Court action on the matter. An appeal to any international body on this issue would include "evidence" that the Base figured in US "aggressive plans."

3. The current Cuban allegations are apparently the first from a Cuban cabinet ministry claiming US implication in a plot against the life of Raul Castro. Thus far, Cuban propaganda has failed to exploit the allegations to any considerable extent.

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